

2024 Trustees Election Questionnaire Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

The Catholic Church considers that elected democratic office is a position of immense responsibility, to be held in high trust and exercised with great humility, wisdom, and responsibility, in the interest of the common good.

This is particularly true with respect to those who seek to govern publicly-funded Catholic Schools. Education is of first importance for the future of our society, and Catholic education, properly conducted, can be of unique importance in passing our faith to future generations. Few endeavors offer comparable opportunities to integrate faith into the entire range of personal and social values for future generations.

The Church teaches that the ultimate purpose of this life is to seek the truth, which is God. “God is the ultimate end of his creatures and for no reason may the common good be deprived of its transcendent dimension.” This truth is most effectively communicated to our children by their families, parishes, and schools.

Please confirm your name and GSCS region, and preferred contact information:

Candidate’s name: Wayne Stus

Region (circle one) Subdivision 1 (rural areas around Saskatoon, including Martensville and Warman)

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YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS A TRUSTEE

Catholic schools are not alternate public schools. In addition to the curriculum presented by secular schools, Catholic schools provide religious instruction, impart Gospel values and display religious symbols, and serve as a critical part of the Church’s mission to evangelize youth. Catholic and non-Catholic parents freely choose to send their children to Catholic schools with the full expectation that they will be socialized into a faith community in which the person and message of Jesus is central to instruction in all subject areas.

The distinctiveness of Catholic schools arises from their teaching students to incorporate the person and the message of Jesus Christ in all aspects of their lives, while our secular society looks to the individual human being as the measure of all things. Catholic schools provide the spiritual and transcendent dimension which says that God is ultimately the measure and meaning of life.

Q. 1. What draws you to the vocation of service as a Catholic school trustee?

I am drawn to the vocation of service as a Catholic trustee to work with parents and caregivers, while reassuring them that they are the primary decision makers of their children. Being a catholic school trustee is important to me, that is why I initially stood up to assist in the formation of a Catholic School Board in our rural division as means of assuring that our children, grandchildren and future generations continue to have access to easily attend a catholic school in Saskatoon, if they so wish.

Q. 2. What do you hope to accomplish as a Catholic school trustee?

As a Catholic school trustee, I hope to accomplish the work of the board as it arises. I will fully commit my time by attending all meetings, maintaining relationships with parents of the schools that I liaise with, and others that I will have the opportunity to meet at various parish and community events. More importantly, in my relationship with God and my parish I will strive to assure that my faith is permeated in all difficult and important decision making.

Q. 3. What experience do you have that qualifies you to serve as a Catholic school trustee?

I am qualified to serve as a Catholic school trustee with experience serving since 2006. I assisted with the formation of Saskatoon Rural Catholic School Board with the means to amalgamate to St. Paul's Catholic School Division. As well, as a previous local business owner with vast experience in the construction industry I am able to help resolve issues surrounding new builds and facilities.

Catholic school trustees are called to express their personal faith in full communion with and participation in the faith life of the Catholic Church.

Q.4. In your view, what are the most important contributions Catholic education can make to the lives of children, and the communities they will become part of?

The most important contribution Catholic education can make to the lives of children and being surrounded by Catholic teachings and prayer everyday, is that it provides them the opportunity to embrace God's unconditional love and to live a life of faith openly.

Q. 5. Please describe the nature of your devotion to Christ and the Catholic Church, including ways in which you witness to your faith in your daily life.

I am baptized Greek Catholic, like my parents and grandparents before me, I continue to stay active and connected to our parish community with my own family. With daily prayer and devotions being a normal part of my life, and assuring I participate in the Sacraments regularly, I am committed to sharing my faith openly with others. In the past I served on the parish council which proved to be very rewarding in

all aspects of my faith and growth within my parish community. I am a member of the Dennis Mahoney Council 8215 Knights of Columbus, and find their work of the K of C and their love for Mary, the Mother of God to be an essential part of our community and parish life.

Q.6. As a trustee, how do you propose to ensure that the sacramental needs of Catholic students are supported by the Catholic school system?

I feel it important the Catholic school system provides the sacramental needs of our children with the Church and School community as one. Assuring the children have access to liturgies, occasional mass at the school's community parish with access to the Bishop and clergy. It is also important that sacramentals are provided to schools, classrooms and children in assuring they see images of our Catholic faith surrounding them. When you enter a Catholic school you should immediately feel the presence of Jesus, with the placement of religious images and icons, which provides us all with the inclusivity we all seek in our communities.

Q.7. In addition to ensuring that students are taught the Catholic notion of incorporating faith into all aspects of our lives, trustees are responsible for ensuring that students are encouraged to do their very best in taking in the full range of provincial educational curricula. How do you see yourself assisting in that process?

As a Catholic school trustee I will continue to support Catholic education approved by the Canadian conference of Catholic bishops and the provincial ministry.

Q.8. In order to ensure that Catholic schools and the communities they teach in remain true to the Catholic faith, it is important that Catholic school boards and individual trustees remain in contact with their local parishes and bishops. What is your plan for remaining in touch?

I plan to stay in touch by remaining knowledgeable of current Catholic educational, research and practices, while also attending mass and remaining involved in community and parish events.

Q.9. In what ways do you envision yourself advocating for the continuing rights of Catholics to educate their children in publicly-funded Catholic schools?

Publicity funded Catholic education in Saskatchewan is fully funded, few provinces in Canada are. Lobbying local, provincial and federal governments are continually needed at the board level. We need to ensure all understand the importance of Catholic education to all families and to those who choose a faith based education. When and if challenged, I will continue to advocate and lobby for the rights of Catholic based education, as we did when challenged with the Theodore case.

Q.10. Trustees are responsible to students and parents for ensuring that the fullness of Catholic values, beliefs and teachings are passed on to our children, and for helping to ensure that our children carry those values and teachings into the broader community. How do you propose to ensure that you yourself are aware of the full range of matter you will be expected to impart to students?

The director and administration provide the board with the full range of matter as it arises and how it may affect children. We base our discussion and decisions on these facts, and if needed we research further. As a trustee I stay abreast of issues within our community and around the world on a daily basis and bring that to the table as required. As trustees we participate in faith and professional development to ensure the fullness of Catholic values, beliefs and teachings are passed on to our children. All staff are also provided development to ensure the same, and then they are to share with our children, with the hopes that these values and teaching are brought to the broader community.

Q.11. As elected public officials, trustees are accountable to their constituents for prudent, wise, and equitable use of resources, in an open and accountable fashion. In what specific ways do you propose to discharge that duty?

Offer input in creating the annual balanced budget that reflects on goals, capital expenditures, contracts, agreements, programing, enrollment, and staffing needs for the division.

[It is a requirement that candidates for the office of Catholic separate school trustee be Catholic. Many voters, including particularly parents of school children, seek assurance that trustees they elect are active, dedicated Catholics. If you have a letter of reference from your pastor, or other documentary assurance, we invite you to attach it. Please note, however, that this is not a requirement for posting of your response.]